

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The abstract of the disclosure and the title have been objected to. The abstract and title have been amended appropriately herein to obviate the objection.

Claims 32, 34 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Japanese patent publication JP-09022625 A (hereinafter "Ueda"). Claim 32 has been amended to better distinguish from the prior art. Thus, for the following reasons, the rejection has been rendered moot.

Regarding amended claim 32, Ueda does not teach "a first end of the leader for attachment to a cable *by at least one of a fastener, an adhesive, a staple, a clip and a band,*" as required. The Examiner cites a twisted wire (103) of Ueda as the cable and a conductor (101) extending from the twisted wire (103) as the leader of claim 32. There is no teaching in Ueda that the conductor (101) is attached to the twisted wire (103) by some means of attachment. Moreover, it appears from the disclosure of Ueda that the conductor (101) is merely an extension of the twisted wire (103), having no need for any means of attachment. Since every limitation of the claim is not taught, claim 32 and its dependent claims 34 and 35 are not anticipated by Ueda.

Claims 33 and 36-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ueda. For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed in part and rendered moot in part by the amendment of claim 32.

Regarding claim 36, which depends from claim 32, every limitation of the claim is not taught or suggested by Ueda for the reasons explained above. Thus, claim 36 is patentable over the prior art of record.

Regarding claim 33, Ueda does not teach or suggest that “the leader comprises a material that narrows as the leader is elongated by a pulling force,” as required. Similarly, regarding claim 37, Ueda does not teach or suggest a jacket assembly comprising “a felt leader” as required. The Examiner states that the choice of material is “an obvious matter of design choice . . . because Applicant has not disclosed that the material as recited in the claimed invention provides an advantage.” Applicant respectfully disagrees. Starting on page 5, line 20, the specification clearly states:

The leader 30, for example, may comprise a continuous piece of felt. In addition to having the required strength for the loading operation, the felt 30 is a desirable material for this purpose because it elongates and narrows as it is pulled through the jacket 20. This necking down of the felt allows it to pull away from the inner walls of the jacket and to pass more easily through the jacket 20.

There is nothing in the prior art of record, including the disclosure of Ueda, that recognizes this advantage, or otherwise suggests making the leader from felt or another material that narrows as presently claimed. Therefore, since every limitation of the claims is not taught or suggested, claims 33 and 37 and dependent claims 38-40 are patentable over the prior art.

Claim 41 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Ueda in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,870,774 to Maroschak. For the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As explained above with regard to claim 37, Ueda does not teach or suggest that the leader is made from felt, as required by claim 41. Likewise, Maroschak does not teach or suggest a felt leader. Therefore, since every limitation of the claim is not taught or suggested, claim 41 is patentable over the prior art of record.

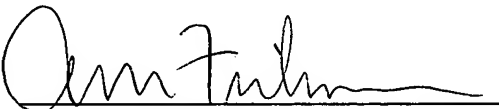
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In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. 33552.

Respectfully submitted,

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